

R. C. STANDS for "Red Cross" in America and "Relief Coming" in France.

HOME EDITION

## ALL BANKS MUST PAY 3 PER CENT IN CO. DEPOSITS

Commissioners Take Step Meaning Much to Taxpayers.

Treasurer Campbell Acts on Resolution Passed by Them.

FIVE BANKS PAY CITY 3 PCT.

Shawnee County Finally Gets a Just Rate.

County and City Banks Now on a Par.

Under a resolution adopted by the board of county commissioners all county money shall be placed in banks paying 3 per cent interest. A copy of the resolution has been placed in the hands of E. A. Campbell, county treasurer, and carrying out provisions of the resolution has begun, Campbell announced today.

"Those are my instructions and they will be carried out to the letter," said Campbell. "Under my interpretation I am to deposit future moneys in 3 per cent banks and whenever I draw out money it shall be from balances of banks not paying 3 per cent."

The resolution reads, in part: "All funds and moneys coming into the hands of the county treasurer of Shawnee county, Kansas, shall, and the same are hereby ordered to be deposited in such banks in Shawnee county, Kansas, as are now paying to said county 3 per cent interest upon daily balances and in all other banks in Shawnee county, Kansas, as will pay to said county 3 per cent."

Only Three Banks Eligible.

Under this resolution only three banks in the county are subject to present to receive county moneys.

These are: Citizens State Bank, Kansas Reserve State Bank and the Shawnee State Bank.

The Kansas Reserve State Bank has been paying the county 2 per cent on deposits since its establishment November 1, 1916, according to Campbell.

The Citizens State Bank has been equally generous in paying 3 per cent in recent months and Campbell has been informed that the Shawnee State Bank will pay 3 per cent in the future.

The other Topeka banks have only been paying 2 per cent and the county 2 1/2 per cent.

By demanding and receiving 3 per cent interest the county commissioners are increasing the county's revenue many thousands of dollars, it is pointed out. With the county spending more money than ever before in its history on good roads and bridges, the county's practice of economy becomes apparent.

City Struggle Ignited.

It was about two years ago when contention over the city's paying of Topeka banks in paying more interest on state deposits than on city and county deposits.

Under the recommendation of the city's finance committee, the city commissioners passed a resolution providing for the city to deposit a major proportion of its funds in banks paying 3 per cent. Now the county has followed suit and county and city funds are demanding equal consideration.

There are five banks paying the city 3 per cent interest, namely, the Kansas Reserve State Bank, the Citizens State Bank, the Shawnee State Bank, the Topeka State Bank and the Central National Bank; the latter has been getting its city deposits thru the Citizens, which has been nominally carrying the heaviest city deposits to the city.

The Citizens has carried for some months at a time as much as \$200,000 in city deposits in the Citizens National, taking probably half of "W" from the Citizens, paying the latter 3 per cent, which the Citizens turned over to the city.

The 3 per cent to the city and county was made possible by the Kansas Reserve State Bank, whose establishment was brought about primarily to secure a fair rate of interest for the county and to secure the same rate for them that the banks generally paid the state, namely 3 per cent.

MOVIE STAR KILLED

Charlie Chaplin's Running Mate Dead, 3 Others Injured In Auto Crash.

Los Angeles, Calif., Dec. 29.—Eric Campbell, co-star with Charlie Chaplin in many of the Chaplin moving pictures, was killed here today and three others, one an actress, seriously injured when Campbell's big touring car collided with another machine at a street crossing, demolishing both machines.

Miss Jean Crosby, also well known in the film world, Harold Schneider, scenario writer and W. A. Hollenbeck, were injured. Campbell was driving the machine and as it struck the Hollenbeck automobile it tipped and turned completely over. Campbell was buried under the wreckage. His wife is in San Francisco. She is a sister of Mabel Gilman, who married William C. Gore, steel magnate.

WILL QUIT G. O. P. JOB

Report Chairman Wilcox Intends to Resign From National Committee.

New York, Dec. 29.—William R. Wilcox may resign as chairman of the Republican national committee at a meeting of the committee here today.

It was unauthoritatively told to a number of his personal friends that his business activities have become pressing and that he would prefer to be relieved of the political post he holds.

Mr. Wilcox declined today to discuss the matter.

## BIG BOND REGISTRY

November, Usually Dull Month, Almost Breaks a Record.

Bond registrations in November nearly broke a record for that month.

In a report today Fred W. Knapp, state auditor, stated total bonds registered in his office amounted to \$729,842.4.

As a usual proposition, November is a dull month for the registration of bonds of all classes. Yet the municipal improvement, school, highway and bonds of other classes totalled nearly three-fourths of a million dollars for the month. It is probable that compilation of the December figures and a total for the year will show that 1917 broke all Kansas bond records in spite of the war.

MAKE BANK HAUL

Yeggs Drill Thru 12-Inch Vault Wall and Get \$41,000.

Silent Job, Not Discovered Until Bank Opened at 8 A. M.

Chicago, Dec. 29.—Burglars drilled thru a twelve-inch steel and concrete wall into the vault of the Summit State bank at Summit, Ill., about fifteen miles west of here, early today and stole more than \$41,000 in cash and currency.

The money was contained in two suit cases, one of which held about \$33,000 and the other \$8,000. The burglars overlooked another suit case containing \$40,000 in cash and currency.

The robbery took place between 11:30 and 8 o'clock this morning. A policeman inspected the bank at the former hour and found nothing unusual. Officials discovered the loss at the latter hour.

Entrance was made thru the rear wall directly into the vault. The burglars left several hammers, chisels and crowbars behind.

The president of the bank, is also vice-president of the State bank at La Grange, Ill., which was held up and robbed by bandits of more than \$50,000 last week.

USED MORE SUGAR

Americans Consumed 400,000 Tons More Than in 1916.

Threatened Famine Caused Drive on Wholesalers' Stocks.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Foundation for the sugar shortage was laid while refiners held large stocks last February by sensational stories of a threatened famine, and strikes caused by the I. W. W., Earl D. Babst, president of the American sugar refining company, testified today at the sugar investigation. He said he did not know who he believed was responsible for the stories.

Consumers began to hoard, he said, and during the spring and summer demands upon the refiners were unprecedented. When consumers began to hoard, retailers raised prices he said, and refiners in turn increased prices correspondingly, as they did not desire to increase the alarm.

Added to the scare stories came reports of a Cuban revolution and destruction of cane fields which stimulated demand greatly. Babst said, then after stocks became low there developed a difficulty in getting raw sugar and when it was impossible to supply the eastern trade with cane sugar the car shortage prevented new beet sugar from being sent east.

Americans consumed 400,000 tons more in 1917 than the year previous, Babst said, and 200,000 tons of Cuban sugar usually coming to this country went abroad. He described the situation with the sugar, "You can't eat your cake and have it, too."

The demand as a result of the canning campaign was enormous, he said, and added that "instead of sugar being in sugar bowls it is in fruit jars."

WHAT IS IT, A JOKE?

For Fourth Time Senate Committee Delays La Follette Probe.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Inability to obtain a quorum compelled the senate committee investigating Senator La Follette's recent St. Paul speech to postpone action again today. For the fourth time the committee has extended time for conducting the inquiry and to decide whether former Secretary Bryan and other witnesses should testify.

SUGAR GOT TO BOSTON

9 Million Pounds From New Orleans to Relieve Famine.

Boston, Dec. 29.—A cargo of 9,000,000 pounds of raw sugar from Louisiana, the first received this month, reached Boston today. Refiners said the Louisiana product to be sent here this season but that Cuban sugar was expected to move northward within the next ten days and further relieve the shortage.

SHIP PROBE FRIDAY

Chairman Hurley of Emergency Fleet Corporation, First Witness.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Investigation of the government shipping board and emergency fleet corporation's operations under the resolution of Senator Harding, which the senate adopted, the senate commerce committee decided today will begin tomorrow afternoon with Chairman Hurley as the first witness.

MAKE BIG FLOUR CONTRACT

Calumet, Ill., Dec. 29.—It was learned today that the purchasing representatives of the allied governments have arranged to take all the surplus flour and oatmeal manufactured by the mills of Canada and that already every mill in the dominion is working to capacity and will continue to do so until the war is over.

## CAPITAL UNDER MILITARY LAW

Die to Looting

Bolsheviks Proclaim State of Siege at Petrograd.

Edict Includes Ukraina, Where Revolt Is Now On.

SPURN BOLSHEVIK ULTIMATUM

Governing Body of Ukraina Sends Negative Answer.

Invaders Force Italians Back Slightly in Bitter Fight.

(By the Associated Press.)

A state of siege has been proclaimed in Petrograd and the Ukrainian Rada refused to obey an ultimatum presented by the Bolshevik government. Orders in the capital, due, it is said, to the looting of wine cellars and shops made necessary the proclamation of a state of siege.

Relations of the Ukraine and the Bolshevik government have not been cordial. The Ukrainians have refused to permit Maximilian troops to cross its territory to attack General Kaledines and several days ago Bolshevik troops attacked the Rada as it was sitting in Odessa and were defeated by Ukrainian troops. The Bolshevik government has been friendly to the constitutional Democrats and the Cossacks, the main factors behind the counter revolution.

Continuing Reports on Cossacks

Investigator of the Don recently reported captured by the Bolsheviks is now said to have been occupied Monday by the Cossacks of General Kaledines, who, according to another recent rumor had been robbed by his own officers. The Cossack leader, according to the investigator, is now in the hands of the Bolsheviks. The Bolsheviks have proposed to the Ukrainians that civil strife come to an end by declaring the independence of the Don territory and providing against Maximilian intervention there.

Between Monte Grappa and the Venetian front, the Italians are resisting desperately renewed Austro-German efforts to break thru the hills to the plains. The Austrians are attacking the Venetian front and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy, were forced to retire to new positions when the invaders broke through the line. The Austro-Germans have been checked in several attempts to cross the river.

On the western front the Germans have not yet given strong indication of where their advertised drive is to begin. The German guns continue to roar and the various divisions on the front from the North sea to the Swiss border, including the Tyres and the Alpine divisions, are active. The parties are harassing the British and French soldiers. Enemy raids have been repulsed by the British in the sector of the Somme, while the French have repulsed an attack at Regenville, northwest of Verdun.

Germany's present strength on the western front is estimated to approximate the maximum reached last July, when it was 115 divisions. The allies, however, are believed to have a superiority in numbers.

British shipping losses for the past week total 17, a decrease of four compared with the previous week. The number of ships of more than 1,600 tons lost remained stationary, the reduction being in vessels under 1,600 tons.

Reply to Ultimatum.

Petrograd, Wednesday, Dec. 29.—The Russian government has sent a negative answer to the ultimatum of the council of people's commissaries, the Bolshevik government.

Cossacks Occupy Town.

Petrograd, Wednesday, Dec. 29.—Orenburg Cossacks opposing the Bolsheviks have occupied Tchelakinsk, a junction on the Transsiberian railroad, according to a report received by the Don.

25 Million In Revolt District.

London, Dec. 29.—The Bolshevik government, according to Petrograd advices, has sent an ultimatum to the Ukrainian Rada. It demands that the Rada should accept the Bolshevik ultimatum, or "cannot maintain such a disinterested war aims if her enemies are to be defeated."

The Ukraine, which means a frontier, is part of the old kingdom of Poland. It is made up of parts of the government of Poltava, Kiev, Podolia, Kharkov, Ekaterinoslav and Kherson. These governments combined area of about 127,000 square miles and a population of about 25,000,000.

CORN JUMPS 6 CENTS

Removal of Eastbound Embargo Gives Grain Market a Boost.

Chicago, Dec. 29.—Rumors that the eastbound embargo on corn and oats was to be lifted and that the maximum price of corn was to be removed led to a sharp upturn in the corn and oats markets on the board of trade today. May oats rose 6 cents, cents to \$1.25. Oats rose 3 cents.

Notice that the embargo which was imposed December 9 was lifted was received shortly after the close of a conference of trade takers printed a denial from Washington that the maximum price was to be removed.

President Griffin, of the board, issued a statement from which it appeared that the rumors of removal of the maximum price, \$1.25, grew out of a conference of trade takers with the federal food administration at New York recently. The statement said, however, that if the maximum were removed it would not affect existing contracts. Grain shippers said they had not been formally notified of termination of the railroad embargo.

## HUNS REUSS THEY WILL OFFER PEACE TO ALLIES

All Central Powers Will Try for Negotiations.

Russia Also Doing Utmost To Sound Out Allies.

But Haggle On One Point

Won't Consider Proposal of Self Definition of Nations.

Autocratic German Government Deems That "Impractical."

Petrograd, Dec. 29.—According to press reports Russia has been informed by the central powers that they intend to make peace proposals to the allies.

This report is published in the Evening Post, which says the representatives of the central powers, at the first preliminary peace conference which the Russians held yesterday, announced that their governments intended to put the question of peace before all the powers and that they had asked their allies to do likewise. Russia was requested to take similar steps. It is stated the Russians are endeavoring by all means to sound the allies.

The Evening Post says the Germans have officially informed the Bolshevik headquarters that the central powers are ready to consider the arrangement of peace on the basis of no annexations and no indemnities, but pointed out that self definition of nations was impracticable.

London, Dec. 29.—Peace negotiations between Russia and the central powers, an armistice having been reached, are assuming an aspect of importance. Doctor von Kuehlmann, the German foreign secretary and Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister are both said to be on their way to Brest-Litovsk, being accompanied by advisory suites from Berlin that the main committee of the reichstag will be summoned to meet in special session in connection with these negotiations and some German delegates are expected to attend.

Another result of the armistice is that Ensign Kraglen, the Bolshevik commander in chief, has been able to move divisions from the northern front against General Kaledines, who is reported to be gaining new successes.

Kerensky Attack Myths?

The report of a direct confirmation of the report that Kerensky is in the vicinity of Petrograd with an army. Meanwhile the Bolsheviks are being urged to use drastic methods against its opponents, including the reinstatement of the death penalty.

A dispatch from Tammerfors, Finland, says that the Russian troops are preparing to evacuate Finland, their transportation already having been arranged.

Prefer a Separate Peace?

The representative of the Central powers informed the Russians they were ready to discuss peace preliminaries but desired to know the result of Russia's efforts to induce the allies to join in the negotiations before proceeding with them. They said this point of view might be changed, however, and that they might be willing to discuss peace with Russia alone.

The German government has declared its readiness to accept the Russian armistice might influence the other fronts. The first conference was devoted merely to a discussion of whether the government would participate in the negotiations.

No News of It at Washington.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The Russian embassy today received no word of the progress of peace negotiations between the Bolsheviks and the central powers, and whatever advice the government was receiving thru American Ambassador Francis or other sources were not made public.

ANY KIND OF PEACE WILL DO.

Austria Approves General or Separate Peace as Second Choice.

Amsterdam, Dec. 29.—Austro-Hungarian army officers have made out annexations, territorial or economic, but "cannot maintain such a disinterested war aims if her enemies are to be defeated."

The Austria-Hungarian foreign minister, declared in a speech before the parliament. Dispatches from Vienna today said the emperor in reply to interpellations and approved the Russian separate peace movement.

WAR END NEXT SEPT. SAYS MESSAGE IN CHINESE TANG JAR

New York, Dec. 29.—The war will end in September, 1918, after an American general has done "wonderful things" on the French front, according to a Chinese prediction just received.

Farish-Watson & Co., Chinese art importers, 560 Fifth avenue, just received a large "Tang" jar, valued at \$5,000, last week. The jar was made about 1,000 years ago. When it was unpacked, a piece of blue paper was found at the bottom upon which were four rows of Chinese characters which when translated read:

"Some day one American young and famous general will achieve wonderful things in the front of France, and this great world war will be ended in September, 1918."

It is supposed the prediction was made by some Chinese "scholar," or philosopher, and was placed in the jar before it was packed for shipment at Hankow, China, last summer.

## ITALY'S FATE IS HANGING ON THE WEATHER TODAY

Winter's Grip About To Lock Doors to Venetian Plains.

Austro-Germans Trying To Get Past Mountains.

ITALY FULL OF CONFIDENCE

Then Will Get Ready for Roman Drive in Spring.

Austrians Repeat They're Driven by Own Artillery.

BY HENRY WOOD.

With the French armies in Italy, Dec. 29.—The fate of the Venetian plains today hangs on the weather.

If Italy's line hold for a fortnight under the tremendous Teutonic pressure, winter's ice and snow will effectively lock the door to the plains.

Both sides realize the supreme necessity of a decision on both sides of the Brenna river. If Italy can make a successful drive, she is now doing—check the Austro-Germans on their present line, she will be ready for a spring counter-offensive.

Officials regard the present situation as the most favorable and hopeful for the Italians since the original retreat.

Must Get to Plains or Lose.

The Austro-German strategy is now sufficiently unfolded to render it certain their sole winter objective is in reaching the Venetian plains thru the valley of the Brenna, flowing out from the Alps at Bassano.

Protecting this crucial point, the Italians have two deep salients. One is east of the Brenna, culminating with its most northerly point in Monte Solarolo. Monte Grappa is its highest point. The other is west of the Brenna, culminating to the north in Monte Ziblena of the Asiago plateau.

While General Buelow's German armies, by successive and carefully prepared attacks, seek to encircle these salients, capturing them would secure ground and neighboring peaks, General Conrad's Austrians are delving either simultaneous or alternating attacks upon the Brenna.

During a four-day continuous attack by the enemy last week, the Italian line was pushed back to a formidable wall to win the unstinted admiration of both the French and British armies.

Snow Falling in Mountains.

Snow fell throughout the mountain sectors on Monday—the first real winter weather. At the most the enemy has only a few days left before great drifts of snow will freeze him up.

But even should the worst come to the worst, and the Italian defense line be broken, the French and British armies are always ready to meet any emergency.

The terrific intensity of the battle now being waged is illustrated by testimony of Austrian prisoners. They declare they are driven to the attack by a barrage fire of their own artillery, which is attacking waves and constantly moving forward. The Austrians must advance or be wiped out by their own guns.

LABORATORY BURNS

\$60,000 Loss—Large Building Completed Only 3 Years Ago.

Muscatine, Ia., Dec. 29.—The United States government sustained a \$60,000 loss today in the destruction by fire of the main laboratory at the United States biological station at Fairport, Ia. The large structure completed three years ago is a mass of rubble today.

A lack of water pressure at the station prevented the successful fighting of the blaze which had its inception on the upper floors. A part of the contents of the library and museum was saved. Aside from the property loss the fire will seriously delay the progress of scientific work carried on there.

KANSAN FIRED IT

Great Bend Soldier Aided in First U. S. Shot at Germans.

A Kansan, Charles Allison of Great Bend, was a member of the battery that fired the first shot at the Germans in the United States.

This morning a Topeka girl received a letter from Allison, who is at the American front in France. He said: "Just think! I not only made the first shell fired against the Germans but I helped to fire it."

The girl of the shell has been sent to President Wilson by the American commander, General Pershing.

MINE BLAST KILLS 11

Explosion Occurs in Dar Dour Coal Mine in Tennessee.

Knoxville, Tenn., Dec. 29.—Eleven men were killed in an explosion in the Dar Dour coal company's mine near Nemo, Tenn., late yesterday according to advices received here today.

The explosion is believed to have resulted either from a gas pocket becoming ignited or the premature discharge of powder.

Seventy-five men were in the mine at the time of the explosion.

MAKE IT A RED CROSS CHRISTMAS

Father Killed, Son Hurt in Week.

Muscatine, Iowa, Dec. 29.—Fay R. Letts, aged 46, a prominent resident of Letts, Ia., was killed and his 16-year-old son, Larry, seriously injured in a railway wreck at Camden, Mo., last night. They were en route to Dalhart, Tex., to make their home.

## TOPEKA'S STAGE OF HUN HORRORS IN SAT. EVE POST

Sam G. Blythe Brings Atrocities Right to Kansas Avenue.

Wonderful Story of What War Would Mean to Us.

CAPPER AND HOUSE, HOSTAGES

Elks, Topeka and Country Clubs as Officers' Quarters.

Word Picture of Women and Children Shot in Streets.

TOPEKA'S STAGE OF HUN HORRORS IN SAT. EVE POST

Sam G. Blythe this week re-enacts the horrors and atrocities of the Germans in France and Belgium. Blythe's story which localizes the horrors of the war in Europe, draws feature position for his story "Der Tag for Us," which appears this week in the Saturday Evening Post. It is a startling effort of the widely known writer to awaken the public to a realization of war conditions.

Blythe introduces his story right on Kansas avenue, Topeka, where a group of German soldiers, walking toward the state capitol, playfully bayonet a crowing babe in the street. Across the river, in North Topeka, the Germans seized Mayor House and Governor Capper. The officials were held as hostages. Then Blythe's German troops begin a reign of terror for the city.

The German officers quarter at the Elks club. The Santa Fe shops and offices are seized, homes are entered, robbed and killed in the streets. Women are assaulted and in many instances their breasts are cut off. A general massacre of the population is in progress. The peace loving populace is in a frenzy. The weak, unsuspecting home guard is routed. A German which had wanted peace at any price, is face to face with every horror of wanton war.

When it was reported that the new increasing German troops have been fired upon, more outrages are committed. The Elks club, where the Orpheum theater is burned, David Mulvaney, former national committee man, and Charles Blood Smith, prominent labor leader, are killed. MacLennan, publisher of the State Journal, are seized and held as hostages.

There is a dance of death on the state house square. The early hours are redoubled. Crimes against women are rampant. Priests and ministers are killed. A Topeka banker, who is shot, is taken to watch the burning of his home. Later he is shot.

The killing of innocent persons becomes indiscriminate. A general massacre of the population is in progress. Citizens are driven to the open country and left under guard without food and shelter. The German army is taken in the march through North Topeka, Meriden, Valley Falls, Nortonville, Cummings and Atchison. Atrocities are committed everywhere. Blythe pictures the landing of fresh German troops on Long Island.

Only authenticated German horrors are depicted. The general massacre of the population is in progress. Blythe's spectacular manner of appealing to America to awake.

The story is a record of the horrors of the war, which hit Topeka and to Kansas, he hits at the very spot claimed most dormant to war conditions.

"Nothing is impossible in these days," says Blythe at the conclusion of his recital of localized horrors. "The German army is always ready to meet any emergency."

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